Vacant post of Safai Karmachari Commissioner

4232. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Safai Karmachari Commissioner to oversee the rehabilitation of scavengers and their off springs in other professions has not been filled as yet;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Commissioner is expected to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) Section 3 of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis Act, 1993 provides for constitution of a body to be known as the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis to exercise the powers conferred on and to perform the functions assigned to, it under the Act. The Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five other members, one of whom shall be a women.

The Constitution of the Commission is under active consideration of the Government.

Bihar Plateau Development Project

4233. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has sponsored a Rs. 400 crore project for tribal development titled as the Bihar Plateau Development Project (BPDP);

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) what precautionary steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that the benefit of the project goes really to the tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) The International Development Association (IDA) has sponsored Project for Bihar titled as Bihar Plateau Development Project (BPDP) at a total cost of Rs. 389.52 crores for a period of five years, from 1993-94 to 1997-98.

(b) 67 (Sixty Seven) tribal dominated Community Development Blocks out of ten districts fall under this project. The ten districts are—Ranchi, Lohardaga, Gumla, Garhwa, Palamau, West Singhbhum, Dumka, Godda and Sahebganj and Pakur.

The Project is designed to help Government of Bihar in its efforts to increase rural incomes and reduce the incidence of poverty in the under-developed plateau areas of the pre-dominantly tribal areas of the sub-plan through investments in irrigation infrastructure to enable greater return in agricultural activities, rural roads to foster commerce and mobility, watershed treatment to protect the environment and increase returns from formerly unproductive land, and drinking water facilities to improve the health of the area population.

Irrigation on about 27,500 hectare of land would be enabled/upgraded, about 1200 KM of rural roads would be constructed or upgraded, about 10,000 hectare of water shed would be improved, and about 13,000 drinking water hand pump would be installed.

Component-wise tentative outlay for the five years is as follows :—

(a) Agricultural Development .	20.47 Cr.
(b) Drinking water . .	42.21 Cr.
(c) Minor Irrigation . .	130.21 Cr.
(d) Rural Roads . . .	191.02 Cr.
(e) Project Implementation .	5.61 Cr.
TOTAL :	389.52 Cr.

(This is the total estimated project cost including physical and price contingencies).

Year-wise break-up of the above amount is as follows :—

First Year (1993-94) . .	62.93 Cr.
Second Year (1994-95) . .	69.25 Cr.
Third Year (1995-96) . .	90.36 Cr.
Fourth Year (1996-97) . .	93.50 Cr.
Fifth Year (1997-98) . .	73.48 Cr.
TOTAL :	389.52 Cr.

(c) In order to ensure that benefit of the project goes to the tribal people, people's participation has been envisaged in the project agreement for this purpose. The participation of Non-Government Organisations in the project will be ensured. Village Committees/Management Committees and Cooperative Committees at the micro level will be formed for increasing awarness among the beneficiaries and making sure that all the benefits should flow to the target beneficiaries.

Disbursal of loans for construction of Tobacco Barn

4234. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ITDA in Andhra Pradesh has disbursed funds for tobacco barn construction in tribal areas of West Godavari and East Godavari districts in 1990, 1991 and 1992;